

REMARKS

The Office Action states that claims 21 and 22 were numbered incorrectly. Claim numbering has been corrected.

Claims 1 and 18-21 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Morris in view of Wong, further in view of Kubo. The rejection of claims 1 and 18-21 is moot in view of their cancellation.

Claims 2, 4, 6, 22 (renumbered as 30), 23, 27 and 28 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Morris, Wong and Kubo as applied to claim 1, further in view of D'Luna. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

A description of the Morris and Wong references may be found in the previously filed responses. As detailed in the previous responses and by the Examiner in the instant Office Action, Morris fails to disclose a plurality of color filters provided in the solid-state image sensing device, wherein the first signal and the second signal output from the solid-state image sensing apparatus comprise a plurality of color signals (as required by the claimed invention). Additionally, Morris and Wong fail to disclose adjustment of the dynamic range increasing a compressed range luminance distribution of the imaged subject by natural-logarithmic conversion (as required by the claimed invention).

The Examiner cites Kubo as teaching the features absent from Morris and Wong. Kubo, however, fails to disclose a signal processing circuit supplied with a signal from a first signal processing circuit and a signal converted linearly from the logarithmic/linear conversion circuit, where the third signal processing circuit performs at least one of matrix conversion, edge enhancement, color adjustment and inverse matrix conversion as the linear signal. Rather, Kubo discloses correction generated based on white balance adjustment data, which may be generated on data regarding a high luminance portion of the light image and image data regarding a portion other than the high luminance portion (see, for example, col. 3, lns. 26-56). That is, there is no circuit in

the Kubo reference that performs at least one of matrix conversion, edge enhancement, color adjustment and inverse matrix conversion as a linear signal from a first and second signal.

Additionally, the Examiner fails to state a reason why one having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the D'Luna reference with Morris, Wong and Kubo. Rather, the Examiner makes conclusory statements of obviousness without any evidentiary support on the record. For example, the Examiner states that the skilled artisan would include a log to linear conversion circuit disclosed in D'Luna with the teachings of Morris, Wong and Kubo in order "to convert the logarithmic signal to a linear signal...where the adjustments would be direct, linear relation to the charge signal amplitudes existing on the image sensor." However, there is no teaching or suggestion in the any of the applied references that would motivate such a finding. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to cite such a reference or withdraw the rejection of record.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 32577-2024100.

However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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